

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0011] as follows:

- [0011] Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of a support including another embodiment of an energy absorbing mechanism;~~and~~

Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows:

- [0012] Figure 5 is a side view of a portion of the energy absorbing mechanism[.];~~and~~

Please add the following new paragraph after existing paragraph [0012]:

Figure 6 is a partially exploded view of another assembly of the present invention.

Please amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

- [0018] In one embodiment, the energy absorbing mechanism **18** includes a roller **22** rotatable about an axis **A**. Preferably, the axis **A** is transverse to the longitudinal axis **L** of the steering column **14**. The elongated element **20** has a first end **24** wound about the roller **22** for unwinding and rotating the roller **22** about the axis **A** in response to the movement of the steering column **14** relative to the support **12**. In a preferred embodiment, as shown in Figure 3, the roller **22** is rotatably supported by the steering column **14**. The elongated element **20** has a second end **26** fixed to the support **12**. More specifically, the elongated element **20** includes a loop at the second end **26**. The support **12** includes a fastener **28** for extending through the loop and fixing the second end **26** of the elongated element **20** to the support **12**. However, it is to be appreciated that the second end **26** of the elongated element **20** may be fixed to any other part of the vehicle adjacent to and fixed with respect to the steering column **14**.

14. In addition, the second end **26** of the elongated element **20** may be fixed through a

variety of mechanisms as are known in the art. In an alternative embodiment, as shown in Figure 4, the roller 22 is rotatably supported by the support 12. Figure 6 further illustrates the roller 22 rotatably supported by the support 12, and it is to be appreciated that the strap and roller may be arranged with the elongated element 20 extending in an opposite direction to that shown, with the roller 22 disposed proximal to the steering column 14. Likewise, the roller 22 may be rotatably supported by any other part of the vehicle adjacent to and fixed with respect to the steering column 14. The second end 26 of the elongated element 20 is fixed to the steering column 14. The second end 26 of the elongated element 20 may be fixed through a variety of mechanisms as are known in the art.